

Message Text

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15

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 /022 W

----- 085295

R 271505Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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DEPT FOR AFBO AND A/SY/FO

BEIRUT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC ABLD

SUBJ: CHANCERY SECURITY MODIFICATION

REF: (A) STATE 119043

(B) RSO TUNIS MEMO DTD 4/17/75

(C) RABAT A-159 DTD 9/27/73

(D) RABAT A-40 DTD 4/11/74

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED SUGGESTIONS SET FORTH REFTEL (A) AND MUST REQUEST DEPT RECONSIDER PROPOSAL SUBMITTED REF (B).

2. SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN REFTEL (A) PARA 2 HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN STUDIED IN DEPTH PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL REF (B) AND DISCARDED AS NOT BEING FEASIBLE DUE TO THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

(A) AS ILLUSTRATED IN REF (C), EXHIBITS 4 AND 12, THE PERIMETER WALL, BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT HEIGHT AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, CAN BE EASILY SCALED AT ANY POINT ALONG THE EASTERN PERIMETER BETWEEN ANNEXES III AND IV.

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(B) RSO'S HAVE, PER REFS (C) AND (D), RECOMMENDED THAT

THIS WALL BE INCREASED IN HEIGHT TO A TOTAL OF 9 FT. THIS IS DEEMED IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO LOCAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED ON MODIFICATION OF EXISTING FACADES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUNIS. ANOTHER AFFECTING FACTOR, EVEN IF THE MUNICIPALITY AGREED TO ALLOW THE WALL TO BE INCREASED IN HEIGHT, IS COST. THE TOTAL COST REQUIRED TO EFFECT THIS MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO THE DEPT'S SUGGESTION WOULD EXCEED THAT REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSAL REF (B) AND WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE.

(C) SECURITY AT THE PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN/VEHICULAR ENTRY GATE IS PROVIDED BY ONE POLICEMAN AND ONE LOCAL UNARMED WATCHMAN. THIS AMOUNT OF SECURITY WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO EVEN DELAY A TERRORIST ON THE GATE MUCH LESS CONTAIN IT. EVEN IF THE GUARD WAS ABLE TO SOUND THE ALARM, THE TIME DELAY BEFORE THE TERRORISTS REACHED THE FRONT ENTRANCE WOULD BE MEASURED IN SECONDS AND WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE MSG TO SECURE THE GRILLED SECURITY DOOR, REFER TO REFS (C) AND (D). ADDITIONALLY, RESPONSE TIME FOR SUPPLEMENTARY INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO ASSIST IN THE CASE OF A SURPRISE ATTACK WOULD BE ON THE ORDER OF HALF AN HOUR.

(D) AS IS POINTED OUT IN REF (C) AND (D), ENTRANCE TO THE COMPOUND CAN ALSO BE EFFECTED VIA ANNEX IV (CONSULATE) AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO ALLEVIATE THIS SECURITY HAZARD BUT FUNDING HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LOBBY ENTRANCE, ALL OTHER OUTSIDE ENTRANCES ARE SECURED FOR OBVIOUS SECURITY REASONS. WE HAVE REDUCED OUR VALNERABLE POINTS TO ONE, BUT IF WE ARE UNABLE TO DEFEND OR CONTROL THIS POINT OF INGRESS/EGRESS, WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY BOXED OURSELVES INTO THE VERY DANGEROUS POSTION OF BEING AT THE WRONG END OF A CUL-DE-SAC.

4. BECAUSE OF THE AFFECTING FACTORS ABOVE, THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR THE CHANCERY MUST BE CONSIDERED AS BEGINNING AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, AS IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTED OUT IN REFS (B), (C), AND (D), THIS FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IS INDEFENSIBLE AT PRESENT. IN THE EVENT OF A TERRORIST ATTACK, THE LIFE OF THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD WOULD CERTAINLY BE FORFEIT AND THE LIVES OF THE AMBASSADOR AND EVERYONE PRESENT IN THE EMBASSY WOULD BE IN EXTREME JEOPARDY.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS STUDIED THE PROBLEM IN DEPTH, AND IS

CONVINCED THAT THIS WILL BE THE MOST EFFICACIOUS, ECONOMICAL,
AND PRACTICAL MEANS OF PROVIDING PHYSICAL SECURITY FOR THE
EMPLOYEES AT THIS EMBASSY. THEREFORE THE EMBASSY REQUESTS
THAT THE DEPT RECONSIDER AND APPROVE AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR
THE PROPOSAL SET FORTH IN REF (B).

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